

# Coming Home FAQs

## **If I am interested in being a Coming Home: Stories from Main Street program how do I get started?**

The first step is to apply to the program. You can view the application [here](#). If you have questions about the application feel free to contact our program coordinator, Sydney Thatcher at [thatchers@si.edu](mailto:thatchers@si.edu) or at 973-617-7485.

## **When does the application open and close?**

The application is always open. You can apply to the Coming Home program at any time, and there is a rolling acceptance.

## **What is the timeline of the project?**

- March 15<sup>th</sup> – Signed contracts and deposit are due to the Smithsonian’s Museum on Main Street staff
- April 1<sup>st</sup> – Invoice for balance of participation fee is sent out
- April 1<sup>st</sup> - Communities hear about possible support from RCAP
- May 1<sup>st</sup> – Training materials provided to host organizations
- May 1st (Year 1) to September 1<sup>st</sup> (Year 2) – Youth work on their projects
- September 1<sup>st</sup> (Year 2) – Youth Projects are completed and shared with the MoMS staff
- September 15<sup>th</sup> (year 2) – Evaluation and all closing paperwork due
- October 30<sup>th</sup> (year 2)– Annual report completed by MoMS and shared with all participants

## **What is the difference between Coming Home: Stories from Main Street and Rural Homecoming?**

Rural Homecoming activities reconnect people with their rural hometowns and connect young people with the innovative and cool things happening in their community, while helping rural communities tell their stories. Participation in Rural Homecoming offers a free toolkit for rural and tribal communities to use, providing communications and social media toolkits to help tell the story of rural America, and providing ideas for events that are driven by local communities, utilizing existing events or creating new ones to engage young people and reconnect those who have left. Some examples include town cleanups, virtual events, town council meetings, or a high school alumnus social.

For more information about Rural Homecoming visit their website at <https://www.rcap.org/events/ruralhomecoming/>

Coming Home: Stories from Main Street helps rural communities showcase their future while honoring the past. Through this program, your community will start conversations that bring

generations together, incorporate a rich exchange between diverse cultures, and help young people understand their hometowns better by exploring local history and giving them an opportunity to be a part of their community's future. Communities that are selected to take part in the Coming Home youth program will work with young people in their community to create video projects with interviews from their local community members and from individuals who have left their rural community. Selected communities, in association with their local museums and cultural organizations, will also hold an event to encourage individuals to return to their rural hometowns and to connect with youth.

For more information about Coming Home: Stories from Main Street visit our website at [www.museumonmainstreet.com/cominghome](http://www.museumonmainstreet.com/cominghome) or contact our program coordinator, Sydney Thatcher, at [thatchers@si.edu](mailto:thatchers@si.edu) or 973-617-7485.

### **What is the cost of participating in Coming Home: Stories from Main Street?**

The participation fee for Coming Home: Stories from Main Street is a \$1000. A \$300 deposit is due with the signed contract. An invoice for the balance of \$700 will be issued in the first week of April.

### **How long do I have to create a project?**

Once a community has been accepted, they will receive all of the training materials on May 1<sup>st</sup> of that year. Communities have until September 1<sup>st</sup> of the following year to create their video project, which is about 16 months to complete the project.

### **If I am interested in Rural Homecoming how do I get started?**

For more information about Rural Homecoming visit their website at <https://www.rcap.org/events/ruralhomecoming/>

### **If I have more questions who should I get in contact with?**

If you have a question that hasn't been answered you can contact our program coordinator, Sydney Thatcher, at [thatchers@si.edu](mailto:thatchers@si.edu) or 973-617-7485.